

C2
 could.
 system comprising a movable arm including a plurality of links and a wrist connected by joints and controlled by a robot controller having a software processing function, a tool unit mounted on said wrist at a distal end of said movable arm, and having an effecting end point biased with respect to a final rotational axis of said wrist and directed to said final rotational axis, said method comprising:

- (a) arranging the workpiece so that a central axis of the workpiece is aligned with the final rotational axis of said wrist; and
- (b) rotating said final rotational axis to perform machining on the workpiece.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 9 have been amended. Claims 1 and 9 are pending and under consideration. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments of claims 1 and 9 are provided merely help describe the invention in as clear manner as possible, and therefore does not further limit the invention within the meaning of **Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kinszoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd (SUPREME COURT RULING, July 12, 2002)**.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nio et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that Nio et al. does not teach or suggest "a movable arm including a plurality of links," as recited in independent claims 1 and 9 of the present invention. Moreover, the welding torch supporting rod 5 of Nio et al., which is mounted on the robot wrist 4, extends from and is biased from the T-axis 2' (see FIG. 1B) of the robot wrist 4, and an effecting end (i.e., a distal end of the wire electrode 7) of the welding torch 6 supported by the welding torch supporting rod 5 is positioned on the T-axis 2' of the robot wrist 4. Thus, Nio et al. is not directed to an arrangement in which the effecting end is biased with respect to the final rotational axis of the wrist, as provided in the present invention. Furthermore, even if the T axis 2' is rotated, the position of the effecting end of the welding torch 6 is not changed, and as a result, the cutting or welding on a workpiece, in the form of a pipe, for example, cannot be effectively performed as it can with the rotational tool unit of the present invention.